



**SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY
FOR ALL BY 2020**
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SUMMARY NOTE

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Title: Perspective from the Next Generation

Life is full of contrasts. Black and white on this paper, right and wrong, and the lives of those children born in developed countries versus those of developing countries. I'm going to focus a bit on that last one. I, David Dalrymple, stand here before you in a new suit, surrounded by well-educated, experienced adults who can broaden my knowledge and understanding of the world. I live in a house large enough to have my own room, complete with a desk and a wall of bookcases full of stimulating reading material. I'm growing up with the benefit of amazing technology, even in things such as toys like Lego MindStorms. I have many opportunities to take classes in various topics. I have the stimulation of concert halls and museums and travel. I have a hotel room in Bonn, Germany, many miles from my own home. I am vaccinated against most major diseases. I have a healthy mother who has never had to work any fields in order to feed me and has plenty of time to interact with me. I have a healthy father who has free time to teach me his trade of programming. I have never had to worry when I hear we are due for a dry spell that I might have to go a day or more without food because of it, let alone starve. The worst that could happen in a dry spell for me is that we might not be allowed to wash our cars. The only time I have to worry about missing a meal is if I am at camp and the dinner served is vegetable lasagna, something I suspect many children in developing countries might enjoy and feel blessed to have. Due to normally having a full stomach, I can focus on learning and solving problems. This is something that can be hard for children who are not having basic needs such as nutrition met, which can become a nasty cycle as in order to attain food, one usually must be able to think clearly to work or learn how to attain food. There's a reason that people so often see me smiling and hear me laughing — I'm leading a very good life.

There's also a reason those faces on the photos many of us have seen from developing countries look at the camera with straight, glum, sweat-ridden faces. Many work the fields all-day — hot, tired, and hungry. When they're not working the fields, they're often caring for a relative afflicted with malaria, AIDS, or some other disease. They get little sleep, between nightfall and dawn. They have little or no technology for agricultural purposes or for entertainment. They often have little to no access to education outside of their parents and many are illiterate. Their life depends, quite directly, on the quality and quantity of their work. If a computer programmer has bugs in his programs, he can probably fix them and survive, but if a farmer gets bugs in many of his plants that he is growing, he and his family could perish.

Is it really fair for people who have been born in America or other developed countries and had the privilege to live comfortable lives to turn a blind eye on these starving families who were simply so unlucky as to have been born in developing regions which lack the many things I have just noted? Should we ignore those who could be famous masterminds if only they could be transported to a developed country or better still, have the same securities and opportunities that we in developed countries often take for granted? All have the capacity and right to learn, and to live a healthy, happy life.

The hungry people we see looking so gloomy in the photos could be well fed, happy, and more productive if they got proper education and welfare. I think the program that gives students or even

entire families food for children attending school is a good start toward improving education. I am opposed to external reward programs for education in general because it often makes people more interested in the reward than learning and takes away from the enjoyment and appreciation of learning for the purpose of growing and having a better understanding of the world. However, this reward system solves two problems. First, being that in some developing countries, children would be forced to work fields or in other ways work to help put food on the family table, if they even have a table, rather than go to school, this allows them to go to school without hurting the family's health. Second, even if they would be able to spend the time during the day in school rather than working to grow food or earn money, they might not be learning well if they are on an empty stomach or worrying about others in the family who are. Giving them food and strengthening their bodies allows their minds to be able to function better. This seems to be an exception where rewarding school attendance is the best option conceived of to date.

There are many other tasks that need to be undertaken. In addition to children needing to be able to attend school, we must find jobs for these poor citizens. There should be organized farmland areas so that forest degradation can be dramatically reduced. I hope for an overall reduction of population growth in developing countries. Water must be conserved among growing populations. Water and food providing associations must emerge for even division of water and food in organized groups. Agricultural technology must be sent to developing countries for use in increasing efficiency and productivity. Aquaculture production must be extremely well monitored and reformed. People need to understand that the goal of developing countries should not be to merely become self-sufficient in their own food production, but instead work toward being self-reliant. That is, rather than grow all the foods needed for consumption by their people, countries need to use agriculture and other methods of improving their economy so that they have the incomes to purchase the foods needed by their citizens.

One such method could be LINCOS (Little INtelligent COmmunitieS), a project sponsored by M.I.T. that can provide its computer stations to developing countries for their people to experiment with computer technology and other technologies. Once a citizen masters the computer, he or she may then write software or create devices, which can then be sold on the global market as a viable product. Such computer stations would also aid in the educations of citizens by means of educational software and a connection to the Internet and World Wide Web. One use for computer education would be to show children whose parents have unfortunately died prematurely how to farm, though obviously this would not be a preferred substitute for human teachers or parents. Technology would be a substantial benefit to those unknown but hard-working craftsmen in developing countries — they could open their own website and begin e-business trading. It would truly open a whole new world.

Anything that you do or don't do will affect what I, and the rest of my generation, will have to deal with in the future, as I and my peers will be in our late twenties in 2020 and it is we who will then have entered the role of decisionmakers. I implore the decisionmakers of today to take action now so my generation will not have as many of these issues to contend with in the future. Anything possible should be done. That which seems impossible to many should perhaps also be attempted. To ignore these tasks is to condemn over one billion people to being miserable for life. This is hardly consistent with any definition of human decency. I think we should strive to be able to make a claim like McDonald's by the year 2020 and be able to say we have served over one billion people, though as you can guess, I am not suggesting we serve them hamburgers. Thanks so much for your time and attention.

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